

Dear Supporters, Friends and Residents of Our Seven Towns,

We are beginning the third year of our Frenchman Bay Shellfish Management Program, a collaborative effort by the harvesters and residents of our seven towns: Ellsworth, Franklin, Hancock, Lamoine, Sorrento, Sullivan and Trenton.

This is our Mission Statement:

These communities shall act collaboratively as stewards to preserve, protect, manage and enhance the shellfish resources and ecological well being of the Greater Frenchman Bay Region and to insure a sustainable harvest of shellfish and opportunity for those who make their living on the tide.

To date we have seen good success. For example, Raccoon Cove, Lamoine has shown us the regenerative capacity possible in many of the flats in our seven towns. Just one growing season's rest gave many area diggers good harvests there throughout this past winter. We will be extending this method of conservation and sustainable resource regeneration to other area shellfish growing areas. The Jordan River, Lamoine and Trenton, will be added this year and be on the same schedule as Raccoon Cove. We hope to establish such areas in each of the seven towns where suitable growing are available.

Seasonal harvest rotations are in place. Conservation closures are in effect, reopening soon pending shellfish survey. This year's conservation work and shore cleanup has begun. Harvesters and neighbors are contributing time, funds effort to the program and to enforcement. License sales are increasing which will gain progress toward. We are gaining progress toward self-funding. The resource is growing and more of our residents have the opportunity to make a living or enjoy a meal from the tide!

The Frenchman Bay Regional Shellfish Committee Members and Harvesters thank all of you for your help and support as we develop our resource and create more opportunity for folks to make a living in the shellfish industry. Currently this local Industry brings over half a million dollars in wages directly harvesters. Nearly all of these earning stay in the local economy. This local shellfish asset multiplies many times in the community as our harvests travels though local wholesalers, retail stores and restaurants – all with employees of their own – to our seasonal visitors and to you.

Brian and Jane Langley are once again hosting a clam dinner at their Restaurant, The Union River Lobster Pot; Saturday, 26 May. Hope to see you all there!

Thank YOU!

Joe Porada
Chair,
Frenchman Bay Regional
Shellfish Committee